



## **MINUTES FOR THE MAY 28, 2025 HEARING OF THE NEW YORK CITY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

A duly noticed meeting of the New York City Charter Revision Commission was held at Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Queens, New York at 5 p.m. on May 28, 2025.

Acting Chair Anita Laremont called the meeting to order at approximately 5:36 p.m. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Chair Richard Buery
- Grace Bonilla
- Shams DaBaron
- Anthony Richardson
- Carl Weisbrod
- Valerie White
- Kathryn Wylde<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Attended by teleconference.

The Acting Chair provided introductions and an overview of the Charter Revision Commission's role and explained ways for the public to provide testimony in-person or virtually at public hearings and by submitting written testimony online.

The Acting Chair opened the floor for public testimony, limited to three minutes per speaker.

- Council Member Frank Morano testified in support of non-partisan elections and against the term “open-primary.”
- Raquel Centeno, a researcher and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Southern California, testified on the demobilizing effect of partisan primaries on Asian and Latino voters.
- John Kaehny, Executive Director of Reinvent Albany, testified in support of even year elections, non-partisan primaries, and making MOCS a Charter agency.
- Paul Johnson, the former Mayor of Phoenix, AZ, testified in support of nonpartisan primaries.
- Cassandra Stuart, of the Independent Budget Office (“IBO”), testified that IBO believes moving to even year elections would save \$42 million every two years.
- Kim Svoboda testified in support of open primaries.

- Bella Wang, Voting Reform Chair of the League of Women Voters of New York City, testified in support of even year elections.
- Richard Fox testified in support of non-partisan elections.
- Michelle Jackson, Executive Director of the Human Services Council, testified on the need for procurement and payment reform.
- Candace Prince-Modeste, President of the Jamaica branch of the NAACP, testified against open primaries due to the potential to dilute Black political power.
- Janet Wootten testified in support of open primaries.
- Elyse Mendel testified in support of open primaries.
- Caroline Donnola testified in support of open primaries.
- Karanjit Paul testified in support for open primaries.
- Mike Tagariello testified in support of open primaries.
- Kimberly Cruz testified on the need to focus on issues more critical than primaries including AI, privacy laws, and geopolitical concerns.
- Shane Monynihan testified in support of open primaries.
- Levi Yitzchak Anteby testified on the need for ranked choice voting (“RCV”) to allow the ranking of all candidates and concerns with batch elimination during RCV tabulation.

- Chad Peace testified in support of an open primary top five model of elections.
- Dareth Ogle testified in support of the Civilian Complaint Review Board being given greater oversight powers.

After hearing from all those members of the public in attendance who wished to speak, Chair Buery closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

The Chair thanked Kathryn Wylde for her many years of public service on account of the announcement of her impending retirement from her role at the Partnership for New York City.

Upon motion, the minutes from the meeting of the Commission held May 19, 2025 were unanimously adopted by all Commissioners present.

The meeting was adjourned on motion by the Chair at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Brodheim  
New York City Charter Revision Commission

**Adopted:**



**Leila Bozorg, Secretary**  
**New York City Charter Revision Commission**

**June 9, 2025**